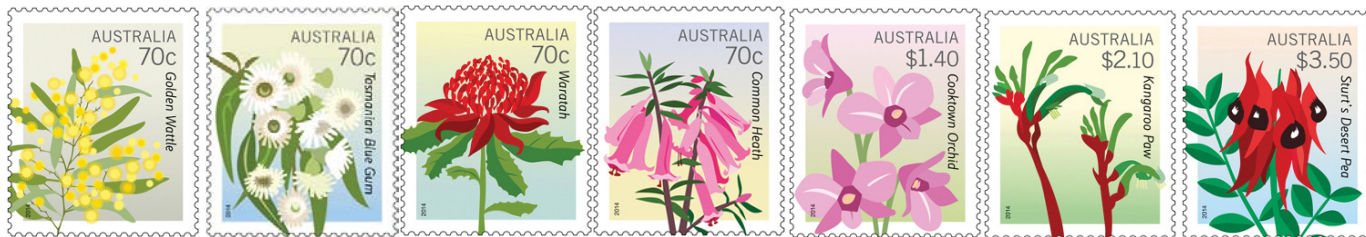


Floral Emblems Blossom on March 24 Stamps



Two recent issues from Australia provide us with colorful flowers and a salute to the 88th Birthday of Queen Elizabeth II.

Released on March 24, Australia Post featured national and state floral emblems that are striking examples of Australia's flora and form part of the nation's identity and floral heritage.

Left to right, the four domestic base-rate (70¢) stamps depict the Golden Wattle *Acacia pycnantha*, Tasmanian Blue Gum *Eucalyptus globulus*, Waratah *Telopea speciosissima* and the Common Heath *Epacris impressa*.

The three large letter rate (\$1.40, \$2.10 and \$3.50) stamps depict the Cooktown Orchid *Dendrobium phalaenopsis*, the Red and Green Kangaroo Paw *Anigozanthos manglesii* and Sturt's Desert Pea *Swainsona formosa* respectively.

"Australians have a love of flowers and these floral emblems are not only visually stunning, but are symbolic of our nation," said Australia Post Philatelic Manager, Mr Michael Zsolt.

Australia's national flower, the Golden Wattle is featured on one of the 70 cent stamps. It has been a popular national flower in Australia for more than 100 years and it has been included in Australia's coat of arms since 1912.

The Golden Wattle was officially proclaimed as the national floral emblem by the Minister for Home Affairs, Robert Ray on September 1, 1988 at a ceremony held at the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

Australia's state floral emblems also featured in the new stamp issue are:

- Tasmanian Blue Gum was proclaimed the floral emblem of Tasmania in 1962.
- Waratah was proclaimed the floral emblem of New South Wales in 1962.
- Common Heath was proclaimed the floral emblem of Victoria in 1958.
- Cooktown Orchid was proclaimed the floral emblem of Queensland in 1959.
- Red and Green Kangaroo Paw was proclaimed the floral emblem of Western Australia in 1960.
- Sturt's Desert Pea was proclaimed the floral emblem of South Australia in 1961.

The associated products with this stamp issue include a first day cover, stamp pack, a maxicard set, two postcards, a medallion cover, booklets of 10 and 20 x 70¢ self-adhesive stamps, and rolls of 100 and 200 x 70¢ self-adhesive stamps.

The products associated with this stamp issue include a miniature sheet, first day cover, stamp pack, and a set of two maxicards.

Information on these and other Australia new issues may be accessed at

<http://shop.auspost.com.au/stamp-coin-collectables>